REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action is respectfully requested. By this amendment claims 2 and 18-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1 and 11, and 17 have been amended. Currently, claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in this application.

Rejection under 35 USC 103

Claims 11-15, 17-19, and 21-22 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Largman (U.S. Patent No. 7,137,034) in view of Kwok (U.S. Patent No. 6,535,924). Claims 1-2, 4-10, 16 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Largman in view of Agnihotri (U.S. Patent No. 7,137,034). These rejections is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claims and the following arguments.

Largman shows a computer 1 that has a data store switch 1Z that cause the computer to boot either from a boot data store 12 or a template data store 14. (Largman at Fig. 1 and Col. 3, line 57 to col. 5, line 14). The computer 1 has three modes of operation: normal mode, repair mode, and switching mode. In the normal stage, the computer performs as a normal computer and runs from disk 12 (Largman at Col. 4, lines 55-58). In the switching mode, the user uses an input 1D to indicate that the software on disk 12 should be repaired (Largman at Col. 4, lines 65-67). In repair mode, the computer will boot use the software on disk 14 to overwrite the software on disk 12 so that the computer can boot from the new software image on disk 14 rather than the old software image on disk 12 (Largman at col. 4, line 59-64; Col. 5, lines 46-63). Largman also shows a second embodiment (Fig. 6) in which the boot-store switch 6Z determines which of two disks 62, 64 should be used depending on whether a network port 69 is connected to an external network such as the Internet.

In neither of these embodiments does Largman teach or suggest that an intelligent interface with its own processing environment should be used to control a network router during the boot process of the main processing environment, and then also made available during run-time to provide external access to the main processing environment to external resources such as an external storage facility, an external security device, and/or an external logging facility. The secondary references likewise don't show this feature. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 11 to recite this distinction, support for which is contained for example at page 6,

line 23 to page 7, line 2. In view of these amendments, applicants respectfully request that the rejections over Largman in view of Kwok and Agnihotri be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested. If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Extension of time

Applicants request a one month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action. Payment for the extension of time is being submitted herewith. If any additional fees are due in connection with this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 141315 (Ref: 15990SSUS01U).

Respectfully Submitted

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